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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions/listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (cancelled)

2. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]]25, further comprising:

   repeatedly adjusting said appearance during said conference.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said adjusting comprises sizing said video image representing said one of said conference participants in dependence on said level of activity.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said adjusting further comprises presenting audio associated with said video image representing said one of said conference participants at a volume that varies in dependence on said level of activity.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

   displaying said video image representing said one of said conference participantsin a region of said display where images of conference   participants having like levels of activity are displayed.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said end-user defines an appearance of a graphical user interface for said conference, including said region for displaying said video

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image representing said one of said conference participants.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim [[2]]25, wherein said adjusting comprises highlighting said video image with a colour indicating a level of activity.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
receiving [[a]] metric metrics indicative of said level levels of activity of said other multiple conference participant participants.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
decoding said video image images from [[a]] at least one stream of data received by way of a network interconnecting said computing device with computing devices of said other multiple conference participants.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
extracting said metric metrics from said at least one stream of data prior to said decoding.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]]25, further comprising:
sampling and encoding an image of said end-user and calculating a metric indicative of an activity associated with said end-user to be received by other computing devices in said conference.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein a quality of said decoding of said video image representing said one of said conference participants is based on an associated metric.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

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buffering an incoming stream <u>associated with said one of said conference participants</u> to allow a buffered image to be displayed as said level of <u>said one of said conference participants</u> activity increases.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

encoding video associated with said end-user for transmission by way of said network.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising assessing a level of activity of said end-user and wherein said encoding video associated with said end-user comprises varying a quality of said encoding in dependence on said level of activity of said end-user.

16. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said calculating calculates said metric based on an amount of motion detected in said image of said end-user.

17. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein said calculating comprises assessing a volume of audio originating with said end-user.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

receiving said <u>plurality of</u> video ~~image~~ <u>images</u> from a server.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein said server ceases to provide <u>at least some of</u> said <u>plurality of</u> video ~~image~~ <u>images</u> if said level of activity is below a threshold.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim [[1]]<u>25</u>, further comprising receiving an input of an end-user to suspend said adjusting.

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21. (currently amended) A computer readable medium, storing computer executable instructions adapting a computing device to perform the method of claim [[1]]25.

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) A computing device storing computer executable instructions adapting said device to:

 receive data streams, each having a bitrate and representing video images of participants in a conference;

 transcode at least one of said received data streams to a bitrate different than that with which it was received, based on a level of activity associated with a participant originating said stream;

 provide output data streams formed from said received data streams to said participants.

24. (currently amended) The device of claim 23, wherein said [[software]] computer executable instructions further adapts said [[server]] computing device to not output data streams associated with inactive participants, as indicated by a level of activity associated with each of said participants and included in one of said received data streams.

25. (new) At a computing device operable to allow an end-user to participate in a conference with multiple conference participants, a method of controlling display of video associated with said conference, comprising:

 displaying a plurality of video images, each of said plurality of video images representing

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one of said multiple conference participants, each of said multiple conference participants currently active in said conference;

continuing to display all of said plurality of video images, while adjusting an appearance of a video image representing one of said conference participants, in dependence on a level of activity associated with said one of said conference participants, so that as said one of said conference participants becomes more active in said conference, said video image representing said one of said conference participants becomes more prominent amongst said plurality of video images on said display to emphasize said one of said conference participants' activity in said conference, and as said one of said conference participants becomes less active in said conference, said video image representing said one of said conference participants becomes less prominent amongst said plurality of video images on said display.

26. (new) A computing device storing computer executable instructions, adapting said device to:

display a plurality of video images, each one of said plurality of video images representing one of multiple conference participants, each of said multiple conference participants currently active in said conference; and

continue to display all of said plurality of video images, while adjusting an appearance of a video image representing one of said conference participants, in dependence on a level of activity associated with said one of said conference participants, so that as said one of said conference participants becomes more active in said conference, said video image representing said one of said conference participants becomes more prominent amongst said plurality of video images on said display to emphasize said one of said conference participants' activity in said conference, and as said one of said conference participants

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becomes less active in said conference, said video image representing said one of said
conference participants becomes less prominent amongst said plurality of video images
on said display.

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